in the country is growing at a fast rate. In order to meet the growing demand due to the rapid growth of the mobile services and for improving the mobile connectivity, the telecom Service Providers are to progressively augment their mobile network infrastructure and optimize the same.

Rural credit to the needy in villages

4597. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India Post of A.P. circle has signed an MoU with any of the Public Sector Banks to provide short-term rural credit to the needy in the villages on the lines of the initiatives taken in Maharashtra circle;

(b) if so, since when the facility has come into force and the number of villagers that have been provided with short-term consumption credit;

(c) the amount of commission the India Post is paid for each loan by the Banks and the estimated total income from the above source; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) No proposal has been finalized as yet.

Mega GSM tender in CIT Sector

†4598. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to award a mega GSM tender for the companies related to Communications and Information Technology sector; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.